

The history of satellite broadcasting in this country has been one of promising the Commission they were only going to provide a particular service or targeted group and then doing something else. This was the case of Satellite television and now is the case of the satellite radio services, XM & Sirius. Both expressed to the commission they would provide a national service only, yet in recent months they have broken those promises by adding "localized" news and weather services to the top 21 markets. Can expansion to other markets and other services be too far behind? The technology is there.

Local radio must be protected from these intruders who say one thing and do another. Local radio is the primary communications service for communities throughout the country on what is happening in their communities and coverage areas. It's the source for learning of local events and happenings, it is their safety-net in times of severe weather conditions, their companion for entertainment, local sports, news and their partner in numerous charitable activities.

The financial ability of local stations to provide these services must be safeguard from those who infringe on their services and provide nothing of substance to the local community. The only thing truly local is the subscription fees that leave the state.

In authorizing satellite radio, the FCC vowed to protect "vibrant" local broadcasting and promised to take any necessary action to safeguard this important service. The FCC must hold XM and Sirius accountable to their original promise as a national-only service .
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